



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Application of: Pittenger, et al.

Serial No.: 09/319,521

Filed: June 4, 1999

For: Improved Chondrogenic Differentiation of Human Mesenchymal Stem Cells

Group: 1644

Examiner: Decloux

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

As a preliminary amendment to the above-identified application, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 42-59 without prejudice and add the following claims:

CI 60. A process for producing chondrocytes from mesenchymal stem cells by culturing mesenchymal stem cells in a chemically defined serum-free medium in vitro wherein the mesenchymal stem cells are associated in a three-dimensional format, and wherein said chemically defined serum-free medium comprises (1) a chemically defined minimum essential medium; (2) ascorbate or an analog thereof; (3) an iron source; (4) insulin or an insulin-like growth factor; (5) at least one chondroinductive agent or factor; and (6) a simple sugar, said simple sugar being present in said medium in an amount of from about 3g/l to about 7g/l.